

NAME (DE 241) ~~SCOTT~~ KEITH *Seaman 2nd cl. Ellis Keith Jr. U.S.N.R.*

CONTRACTOR *Brown Shipbldg. Co., Houston, Texas.* (SupShip, Cons. Steel Corp., Ltd.)  
(Shipbldg. Div. Orange, Texas.)

SPONSOR *Mr. Ellis Judson Keith, Sr.*

RELATIONSHIP *Mother*

LAUNCHED *12/22/42*

NAMED FOR ~~Ensign's Mate 1st Class Robert R. Scott, U.S.N.~~

NAME ASSIGNED *June 30, 1942. December 8, 1942*

AUTHORIZED by Act of Congress dated February 6, 1942.

*2nd cl. Seaman Ellis Judson Keith, U.S.N. V-2 Jr.*

Date: January 4, 1943

ENLISTED MEN

NAME: KEITH, Ellis Judson, Jr.

RATING: S2c, V-2, USNR

PLACE OF BIRTH: Houston, Texas DATE: June 30, 1919.  
First

PLACE OF/ENLISTMENT: Houston, Texas DATE: October 2, 1941.

DUTY--continuous (X): broken service ( )

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: X X X X X

PREVIOUS DECORATIONS: None

MERITORIOUS ADVANCEMENT: None

OFFICIAL HOME ADDRESS: 112 Linwood Street,  
Houston, Texas.

NEXT OF KIN & ADDRESS: Father, Ellis Judson Keith, Sr.  
112 Linwood Street, Houston, Texas.

CASUALTY STATUS: Dead 6/11/42

Place of birth---Father---United States---Indiana  
Mother---United States---Texas

Signed Dec. 24, 1942

The President of the United States pleasure in  
presenting the AIR MEDAL posthumously to

ELLIS J. KEITH, JR., SEAMAN SECOND CLASS,  
~~UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE~~

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as radioman and gunner of a Patrol Plane in action against enemy Japanese forces during the Aleutian Islands Campaign of June 11, 1942. Flying through severe Alaskan weather and with a low ceiling forcing his plane to fly through clouds to carry out its attack missions, KEITH skillfully assisted in the dive-bombing and strafing attack on Japanese ships in Kiska Harbor. Pulling out into the clear at low altitude, his plane was subjected to withering anti-aircraft fire from ship and shore batteries and pierced by shrapnel and lighter caliber projectiles. From his exposed position at the tunnel gun, KEITH continued his determined strafing of the enemy until killed at his station. His courage and fortitude in combat and his loyal devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave up his life in the service of his country."

For the President,

/s/ FRANK KNOX

Secretary of the Navy.

Copy to:

Board of Awards  
Secretary's Files  
Office of Public Relations (2)  
Mrs. Casbarian, Public Relations

OP-09B91SH/jw  
Ser 3669P09B9  
8 November 1967

Dear Mr. Casey:

Your communication of 1 November on behalf of Mrs. C. W. Christian of (b) (6) has been given to me for reply.

Mrs. Christian has asked why her brother, the late Ellis J. Keith, Jr., Seaman Second Class, USNR, was chosen in the naming of Escort Ship USS KEITH (DE-241) launched 21 December 1942. Each Navy ship is named according to a name source established for her type. Escort Ships are named for deceased members of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. At the time DE-241 needed a name, Seaman Keith had recently given his life in the service of his country. For meritorious achievement as a radioman and gunner in an aerial attack on the enemy in Kiska Harbor 11 June 1942 he was posthumously awarded the Air Medal. His name was therefore appropriate for this type of ship, particularly so because this ship was being built in Ellis Keith's home city and state, Houston, Texas, and was to be launched there. There have always been many more deserving names of deceased heroic Navy men than there are ships to proudly bear their names. In a very real way, therefore, USS KEITH represented Seaman Keith and all Texans and all Americans who gallantly served and died for their country.

We are enclosing for Mrs. Christian a copy of the history of USS KEITH (DE-241) which will appear in the third volume of the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, soon to be published. Although the Keith family undoubtedly has the citation made at the Air Medal presentation, we are enclosing a copy of this citation. Since Mrs. Christian's mother sponsored USS KEITH, Mrs. Christian will also be interested, I know, in the enclosed brochure on christening, launching and commissioning ships of the U.S. Navy.

Best wishes in your important work.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/ Capt. Loomis*

Honorable Bob Casey  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Copy to: SECNAV (#34588)  
OLA

ORIG: MRS FISHE, OP-09B91SH, X-64551, typed J.Ward, 11/8/67

Hon. Bob Casey  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Casey,

If you have time to answer this letter, I would appreciate it, but there is certainly no hurry. If possible, I would like to have this information if it is available.

I had a brother, Ellis J. Keith, Jr. who was killed in action in June of 1942. The following December we were honored that he was chosen to have a Destroyer Escort named after him. At this same time the launching of the Battle Ship Texas took place in Houston.

After the launching, there was a luncheon and my mother was seated next to Frank Knox, the then Secretary of the Navy. She asked him why Ellis was chosen for this honor and he told her she would find out after the war was over. She and Mr. Knox corresponded until the time he died and none of us ever found out the reason.

Twenty five years is a long time to wait and question this, but a few days ago I was going through some family pictures, and decided to investigate this.

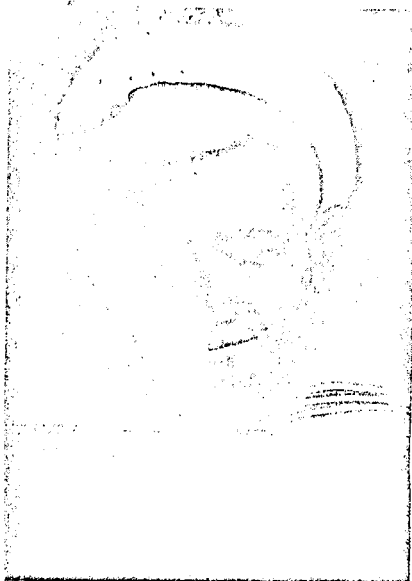
If you have this information I would appreciate it or if there is someone else to whom I might write, please let me know.

Please return the picture as it is the only one I have.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. E. H. Christian*  
(Mrs. C. W. Christian)

34588



**ELLIS JUDSON KEITH, JR.**  
**Seaman Second Class**

On June 18, 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Keith, Sr., 112 Linwood Street, Houston, received a telegram announcing that their son Ellis, Jr., had been killed in action somewhere in the Aleutian Islands area a week earlier.

On December 21, Mr. Keith sat quietly and solemnly among dignitaries on the launching platform at Brown Shipbuilding Company, Houston, and watched Mrs. Keith break a bottle of champagne across the bow of a trim escort vessel and proudly say: "I christen thee United States ship *Ellis Keith*."

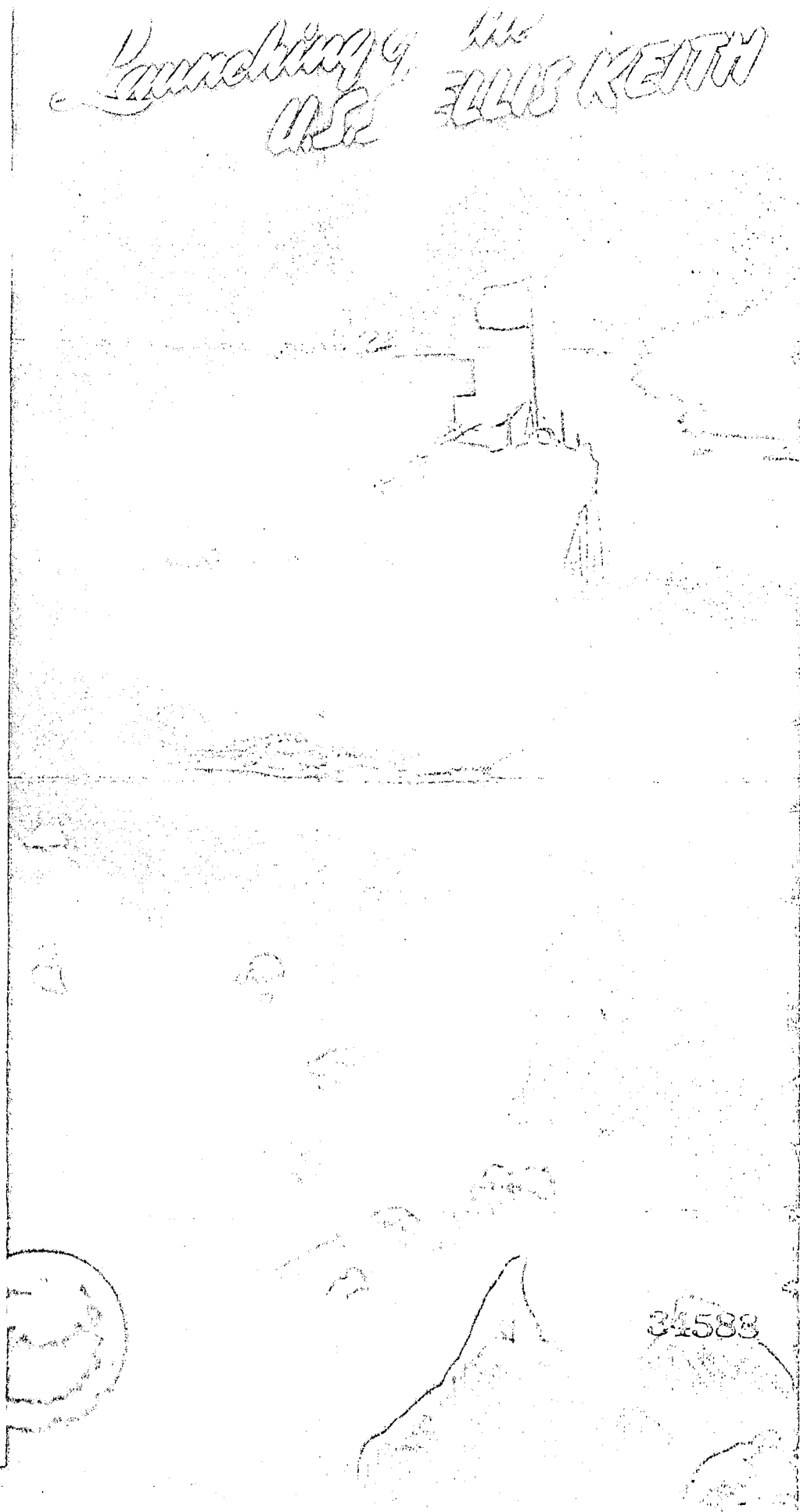
As the 305-foot Navy craft plunged into the water amid tumultuous cheers, he could not help but think of the sincere, quiet young man after whom he was named.

Ellis J. Keith, Jr., was a typical American boy, ambitious, eager to learn, patriotic. He was a member of the Humble family from September 7, 1937, until he volunteered for service in the United States Navy on October 2, 1941.

He began work as a hall boy in the Houston Office building shortly after completing his high school course at St. Thomas College, Houston. After a few short months on this assignment he was transferred into the Refining Accounting department, where he held a junior clerk's position at the time of his entry into the service.

At the conclusion of his Navy training course he was made a radio operator on a Navy patrol plane, and at the time of his death he was ranked as seaman second class. He was given a medal and cited for courage during an aerial flight.

*Launching of the*  
*USS*  
*ELLIS KEITH*



34588

APR 22 1943

Prepared Dec. 8, 1942

From: The Chief of Naval Personnel.  
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Ships.  
Subject: Change in name of SCOTT (DE241) to KEITH  
and reassignment of the name SCOTT to  
DE 214.  
Reference: (a) Bureau's ltr. of July 2, 1942; Pers-2-LJS;  
328-2(1216).

1. The Secretary of the Navy has changed the name of DE241, SCOTT, to KEITH, in honor of the late Ellis Jackson Keith, Seaman, First Class, U.S.N.

2. The name SCOTT has been reassigned to DE214, building at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

3. The Supervisor of Shipbuilding, U.S.N., at the plant of the Consolidated Steel Company, Orange, Texas, has been advised of this change in name of the SCOTT to KEITH and the Commandant of the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been advised of the assignment of the name SCOTT to DE214.

PANDALE JACOBS  
The Chief of Naval Personnel

C. C. Baughman  
By direction

## NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Telephone Ext. No. <u>7297</u>	ADDRESSEES		MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
From <u>The Secretary of the Navy</u>	ACTION	TO:	PRIORITY <input type="checkbox"/>
Released by _____		SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING, USN	ROUTINE <input type="checkbox"/>
Date _____		CONSOLIDATED STEEL CORPORATION	DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>
Unless classified RESTRICTED this dispatch will be classified <i>PLAIN</i> .	INFORMATION	SHIPBUILDING DIVISION	
If CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET use special blank.		ORANGE, TEXAS	
		BROWN SHIPBUILDING CORPORATION	PRIORITY <input type="checkbox"/>
		HOUSTON, TEXAS	ROUTINE <input type="checkbox"/>
			DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by asterisk addressees for which mail delivery is satisfactory.

Unless otherwise designated this dispatch will be transmitted with DEFERRED precedence. Originator fill in date and time for DEFERRED and MAIL delivery. Date 8 Time 081927 G. C. T.

TEXT:

THE DEPARTMENT HAS CHANGED THE NAME SCOTT FOR ESCORT VESSEL 241  
AND ASSIGNED THE NAME KEITH IN HONOR OF THE LATE SEAMAN ELLIS  
JUDSON KEITH, USN. SEAMAN KEITH WAS BORN IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND  
DIED JUNE 11, 1942. MRS. ELLIS JUDSON KEITH, SR., OF 112 LINWOOD  
STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS SPONSOR FOR THIS  
VESSEL.

THIS SPACE IS FOR ABSTRACT OF PREVIOUS REFERENCES. IF THIS IS A REPLY, REFERENCE NUMBERS OF INCOMING DISPATCH MUST BE SHOWN HERE.

OFFICE COPY FILE  
RETURN TO ROOM 2802 2452  
ARLINGTON ANNEX

ORIGINATOR'S COPY. Retain for desk file. For Priority and Routine dispatches, this copy may be sent to Communication Office with other copies where it will be time stamped, DATE/TIME group entered and returned to desk of preparation by same messenger.



## NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Telephone Ext. No. 7297From The Secretary of the Navy

Released by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unless classified RESTRICTED this dispatch will be classified *PLAIN*.

If CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET use special blank.

## ADDRESSEES

MESSAGE  
PRECEDENCE

TO:

MRS. ELLIS JUDSON KEITH, SR.  
112 LINNWOOD STREET  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

PRIORITY ☐ROUTINE ☐DEFERRED ☐PRIORITY ☐ROUTINE ☐DEFERRED ☐

ACTION

INFORMATION

Indicate by asterisk addressees for which mail delivery is satisfactory.

Unless otherwise designated this dispatch will be transmitted with DEFERRED precedence. Originator fill in date and time for DEFERRED and MAIL delivery. Date 8 Time 081027 G. C. T.

## TEXT:

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DESIGNATE YOU AS SPONSOR FOR THE USS KEITH NAMED IN HONOR OF YOUR SON THE LATE SEAMAN ELLIS JUDSON KEITH USN THE SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING, USN, AT THE PLANT OF THE CONSOLIDATED STEEL COMPANY, ORANGE, TEXAS WILL ARRANGE WITH YOU ALL DETAILS CONNECTED WITH THE LAUNCHING WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE PLANT OF THE BROWN SHIPBUILDING COMPANY, HOUSTON, TEXAS, DECEMBER 21, 1942.

THIS SPACE IS FOR ABSTRACT OF PREVIOUS REFERENCES. IF THIS IS A REPLY, REFERENCE NUMBERS OF INCOMING DISPATCH MUST BE SHOWN HERE.

OFFICE COPY FILE  
RETURN TO ROOM 532252  
ARLINGTON ANNEX

ORIGINATOR'S COPY. Retain for desk file. For Priority and Routine dispatches, this copy may be sent to Communication Office with other copies where it will be time stamped, DATE/TIME group entered and returned to desk of preparation by same messenger.

Two hand-drawn sketches of a bird's head and neck. The sketch on the left shows a profile view of the head with a beak and a dark eye. The sketch on the right shows a more detailed view of the head and neck, with a long, pointed beak and a dark eye.

most of these  
men were aboard  
the Hamilton  
C. E. L.

☆ GPO 16-27228-1

According to Mrs. Beckett and Miss Wilson, the only man who has had any connection with Houston Texas is Seaman 1st Class Charley Woodrow Gandy who enlisted in Houston on January 8, 1940. He was born in Kelly La.

**C.E.L**

on January 8, 1940. He was born in Kelly La.

WIRE ROOM  
SUPERVISOR

1942 DEC 2 3 32

*Supervisor of Houston*

W7 182 6 EX DL

HO HOUSTON TEXAS DEC 1 1942 542P

HONORABLE FRANK H KNOX SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC

AMONG THOSE HOUSTON BOYS HERETOFORE REPORTED IN OUR PAPERS AS BEING  
KILLED DURING THE PRESENT WAR ARE ENSIGN HARRY HARRISON FORD SEAMAN  
GEORGE BRUCE LITTLEPAGE FIREMAN WILLIAM JOSEPH DUPREE FIREMAN JAMES  
HARVEY ELLIS SEAMAN ELLIS JUDSON KEITH STORE KEEPER CLAUDE MARION  
WILKERSON SEAMAN ROBERT JOHN BALLARD SEAMAN JOYCE WAYNE LAMSON  
PRIVATE CARL N WILSON AND MASTER ARL STROMGREN STOP I DO NOT KNOW  
WHETHER ANY OF THESE NAMED BOYS SOME OF WHOM WERE WITH UNITED STATES  
NAVY AND SOME WITH MARINE CORPS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE  
NAMING OF THE ESCORT DESTROYER ON DECEMBER TWENTY FIRST BUT MERELY  
SEND THESE TO YOU AS MEN WHO HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN OUR LOCAL PAPERS  
AS HOUSTON BOYS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT  
HOSTILITIES STOP OUR THREE WEEKS CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY AND WE ARE  
CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL SELL IN EXCESS OF THIRTY SIX MILLION DOLLARS IN  
BONDS AND WEATHER PERMITTING WE WILL HAVE AS FINE A PATRIOTIC RALLY ON  
THE EVENING OF DECEMBER TWENTY FIRST AS YOU HAVE EVER ADDRESSED STOP  
REGARDS.

GHAS I FRANCIS, CHAIRMAN OF NEW CRUISER HOUSTON FUND.

1128PM

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Jacobs:

Does Navy name  
Cargo ships to be  
used by Navy - But built  
by Houston Ship Bldg Co  
for Maritime Commission?

2 ships one  
now named

R. J. Scott OK

Other unnamed.  
They want to name this one after a  
man killed on Houston  
from Houston

F.K.

[The following is a transcription of two pages that would not scan due to reflectivity of paper. Typos and irregularities have been faithfully included.]

W2 350 DL

HOUSTON TEX 26 650P

HONORABLE FRANK KNOX SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHN DC

CONFIRMING OUR TELEPHONE CONFERENCE TODAY ADVISE THAT THE SHIP DEDICATION CEREMONIES WHERE YOU ARE TO SPEAK AT ELEVEN THIRTY NOVEMBER TWENTY FIRST WILL BE HELD AT BROWN SHIPBUILDING COMPANY A CONTRACTOR OF THE NAVY STOP TWO VESSELS WILL BE NAMES ONE A DESTROYER ESCORT PRESENTY NAMED AFTER A TEXAS BOY WHO WAS A FIRST CLASS SEAMAN NAMED MORE THE OTHER DESTROYER ESCORT IS PRESENTLY DISIGNATED AS R R SCOTT STOP WE WOULD LIKE THE NAME IF THIS LATTER CHANGED TO THAT OF A TEXAS HERO PREFERABLY SOME HOUSTON SEAMAN WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE CREW OF THE CRUISER HOUSTON SINCE SCOTT WAS NOT A TEXAS BOY STOP THE NAME R R SCOTT COULD BE DEFERRED FOR ALTER SHIP STOP IF YOU COULD MAKE THIS CHANGE AND PERMIT THE DESTROYER ESCORT PRESENTLY DESIGNATED AS R R SCOTT TO BE CHANGED TO SOME HOUSTON BOY

[new page]

WHO DIES ON THE CRUISER HOUSTON THIS WOULD FIT INTO OUR PROGRAM MUCH BETTER STOP PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS CAN BE DONE STOP MAIN PATROITIC RALLY WILL BE HELD OUR COLISEUM EIGHT PM STOP AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TWO SHIPS AT ELEVEN THIRTY WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO MAKE A TEN MINUTE ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF NAMING THESE TWO DESTROYERS AND MONDAY NIGHT YOU WILL BE INTRODUCED BY JESSE JONES AND WE SUGGEST AN ADDRESS OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MINUTES OR LONGER IF YOU DESIRE BY NATIONAL RADIO HOOKUP SO ARRANGED AS TO ALLOW FOR TWENTY MINUTE ADDRESS BY YOU OVER BLUE NETWORK STOP THROUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE SOME IDEA AS TO LENGTH OF TIME SUGGESTED FOR THESE TWO OCCASIONS STOP OF COURSE A LONGER TALK ON EITHER OCCASION WILL BE APPROPRIATE EXCEPT THAT ON MONDAY NIGHT WE CANNOT HAVE NATIONAL RADIO HOOKUP FOR LONGER THAN THIRTY MINUTES OF WHICH TEN MINUTES IS ALLOTTED TO JONES AND TWENTY MINUTES TO YOU SINCE YOUA RE LAST SPEAKER ON THE NIGHTS PROGRAM THE REMAINDER OF YOUR ADDRESS BEYOND TWENTY MINUTES WILL BE CARRIED BY THE LOCAL STATIONS AND WILL BE HEARD BY THE TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE WE ARE EXPECTING AT THIS MAMMONTH PATROITRIC RALLY REGARDS

CHAS I FRANCIS

845P

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains.







Just of all  
to W<sup>th</sup> from  
Huston who  
renewed  
what they

Superior of  
Woodcut

941

2815

69411

December 21—  
date of launch

(4)  
Born

St. Richard Haglund

Died April 11, 1942

Cinema Action - Atlanta Ga

Born N. Y.

Usual Residence of mother

Usual Residence

(b) (6)

St. Cuth: Carl Stromgren

Usual  
residence of

(b) (6)

Born Sweden

AIR MEDAL

E

J. KIETH JUNIOR, SEAMAN SECOND CLASS

UNITED STATES NAVY

"For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as radioman and gunner of a Patrol Plane in action against enemy Japanese forces during the Aleutian Islands Campaign of June, 1942. Flying through severe Alaskan weather and with a low ceiling forcing his plane to fly through clouds to carry out its attack missions, KIETH skillfully assisted in the dive-bombing and strafing attack on Japanese ships in Kiska Harbor. Pulling out into the clear at low altitude, his plane was subjected to withering anti-aircraft fire from ship and shore batteries and pierced by shrapnel and lighter caliber projectiles. From his exposed position at the tunnel gun, KIETH continued his determined strafing of the enemy until killed at his station. His courage and fortitude in combat and his loyal devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave up his life in the service of his country."

Rough draft Dec 3

Ser 23 - pg 23

Approved Sec Nov 21, 1942

P-251-JST

DE 241/S6-2(2)

Prepared Dec. 8, 1942

From: The Chief of Naval Personnel.  
To: The Secretary of the Navy.  
(Public Relations Division).  
Subject: Change in name of SCOTT to KEITH and re-assignment of name SCOTT.

1. The Secretary of the Navy has changed the name of the escort vessel SCOTT, building at the Brown Shipbuilding Company, Houston, Texas, to KEITH, in honor of the late Ellis Judson Keith, Seaman, First Class, U.S.N., who was born in Houston, Texas and died June 11, 1942.

2. Mrs. Ellis Judson Keith, Sr., 112 Linnwood St., Houston, Texas, has been designated as sponsor for this vessel which is scheduled to be launched December 21, 1942 at Houston, Texas.

3. The name SCOTT has been reassigned to an escort vessel which is building at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This vessel is named in honor of the late Robert R. Scott, Machinist's Mate, First Class, U.S.N.

RANDALL JACOBS  
The Chief of Naval Personnel

C. C. Baughman  
By direction

OFFICE COPY FILE *70 62*  
RETURN TO ROOM 2002-  
ARLINGTON ANNEX

## NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Telephone Ext. No. <b>7815</b>	ADDRESSEES		MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
From <b>Bu Pers</b>	ACTION	TO: MR. CHARLES I. FRANCIS CHAIRMAN, U.S.S. HOUSTON BOND DRIVE ESPERSON BUILDING HOUSTON, TEXAS	PRIORITY <input type="checkbox"/>
Released by <b>Capt. C. C. Baughman</b>			ROUTINE <input type="checkbox"/>
Date <b>December 8, 1942.</b>			DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>
Unless classified RESTRICTED this dispatch will be classified <b>PLAIN</b> .	INFORMATION		PRIORITY <input type="checkbox"/>
If CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET use special blank.			ROUTINE <input type="checkbox"/>
			DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by asterisk addressees for which mail delivery is satisfactory.

Unless otherwise designated this dispatch will be transmitted with DEFERRED precedence. Originator fill in date and time for DEFERRED and MAIL delivery. Date **8** Time **081927** G. C. T.

## TEXT:

RELATIVE TELEGRAMS NOVEMBER 26 AND DECEMBER 2 TO SECNAV

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ASSIGNED TO ESCORT VESSEL 241 TO BE LAUNCHED AT HOUSTON, DECEMBER 21, THE NAME KEITH IN HONOR OF THE LATE SEAMAN ELLIS JUDSON KEITH USN X SEAMAN KEITH WAS BORN IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND DIED HEROICALLY IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY JUNE 11, 1942, HAVING BEEN AWARDED THE AIR MEDAL FOR HIS MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS X HIS MOTHER, MRS. ELLIS JUDSON KEITH, SR., OF 112 LINNWOOD STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY AS SPONSOR FOR THIS VESSEL

THIS SPACE IS FOR ABSTRACT OF PREVIOUS REFERENCES. IF THIS IS A REPLY, REFERENCE NUMBERS OF INCOMING DISPATCH MUST BE SHOWN HERE.

RECEIVED

Return to Room 2030

ORIGINATOR'S COPY. Retain for desk file. For Priority and Routine dispatches, this copy may be sent to Communication Office with other copies where it will be time stamped, DATE/TIME group entered and returned to desk of preparation by same messenger.

Subject: KEITH, Ellis Judson, Jr., 624 07 20, Sea2c, USNR V-2  
Reported for Active Duty October 2, 1941.

Single; Born, Houston, Texas, June 30, 1919.

Enlisted; NRS, Houston, Texas, October 2, 1941 - No prior service.

Place of death, NAS, Kiska, Alaska, June 11, 1942 - attached to VP 43

Killed in action

Next of kin:

Mr. Ellis Judson Keith, Sr., father, 112 Linwood St.,  
Houston, Texas.

No beneficiary designated.

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

THOS H BINFORD

JUNE 17, 1942

MR. ELLIS JUDSON KEITH, SR.

112 LINWOOD STREET

HOUSTON, TEXAS.

THE NAVY DEPARTMENT DEEPLY REGRETS TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON  
ELLIS JUDSON KEITH JUNIOR SEAMAN SECOND CLASS USNR WAS KILLED  
IN ACTION JUNE 11 X BODY WAS INTERRED LOCALLY PENDING CESSATION  
OF HOSTILITIES X FURTHER INFORMATION IS NOT NOW AVAILABLE BUT  
WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO YOU PROMPTLY WHEN RECEIVED X TO PREVENT  
POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES PLEASE DO NOT DIVULGE THE NAME  
OF HIS SHIP OR STATION X SINCERE SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO YOU  
IN YOUR DEEP SORROW X

REAR ADMIRAL RANDALL JACOBS  
THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL



Jun 29 1942

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Keith:

I desire to offer to you my personal  
condolence in the tragic death of your son,  
Ellis Judson Keith Jr., Seaman 2c, U. S.  
Naval Reserve, which occurred on June 11,  
1942, while in the performance of his duties.

It is hoped that you may find comfort  
in the thought that he made the supreme sacri-  
fice upholding the highest traditions of the  
Navy, in the defense of his country.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK KNOX

Mr. and Mrs.

## NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Telephone Ext. No. <u>7297</u>	ADDRESSEES		MESSAGE PRECEDENCE
From <u>The Secretary of the Navy</u>	ACTION	TO:	PRIORITY <input type="checkbox"/>
Released by _____		MR. ELLIS JUDSON KEITH, SR.	ROUTINE <input type="checkbox"/>
Date _____		112 LINWOOD STREET	DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>
Unless classified RESTRICTED this dispatch will be classified PLAIN.	INFORMATION	HOUSTON, TEXAS	PRIORITY <input type="checkbox"/>
If CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET use special blank.			ROUTINE <input type="checkbox"/>
			DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by asterisk addressees for which mail delivery is unsatisfactory.

Unless otherwise designated this dispatch will be transmitted with DEFERRED precedence. Originator fill in date and time for DEFERRED and MAIL delivery. Date 8 Time 0819Z G. C. T.

TEXT:

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DESIGNATE YOU AS SPONSOR FOR THE USS KEITH NAMED IN HONOR OF YOUR SON THE LATE SEAMAN ELLIS JUDSON KEITH USN THE SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING, USN, AT THE PLANT OF THE CONSOLIDATED STEEL COMPANY, ORANGE, TEXAS WILL ARRANGE WITH YOU ALL DETAILS CONNECTED WITH THE LAUNCHING WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT THE PLANT OF THE BROWN SHIPBUILDING COMPANY, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

THIS SPACE IS FOR ABSTRACT OF PREVIOUS REFERENCES. IF THIS IS A REPLY, REFERENCE NUMBERS OF INCOMING DISPATCH MUST BE SHOWN HERE.

This copy for release and delivery to Communication Office. It remains in Communication Office files. For plain language dispatches, the Communication Office requires an additional WHITE flimsy for each addressee over one.